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At our friends who favor us with manuscripts for ublication wis to have rejected articles returned, they tust in all cases send at mys for their purpose.

How the Sock Transfer Tax Is Viewed Lisewhore.

It is not surprising to find some of thusiasm:

" The New York stock brokers are unduly excited ever the bill passed by the Legislature at Albany to tax each one hundred shares of stock transferred The brokers deciare that it will drive business Philadelphia and Boston. The Government Luposed such a tax at the time of the war with Posts. A like outers was raised against that measure, but it had no apparent effect on business and speculation. Some European nations impos asimilar tax without any apparent to ustice." The United States internal revenue

fax during the war with Spain was a national measure, in a national emergency. It fell equally and evenly all over the country. It did not divert business from New York to other cities. for the simple reason that as long as it lasted tax condicions in other cities were precisely the same as in New York. The Boston Transcript is not less jubi-

bint, but somewhat more candid than the Philadelphia ne vspaper. It says: "The stock transfer tox and the morreage tex

ere likely to agrees in due time upon the statute books of New York State, with doubtless an expunsive effect upon the circular house figures of floston and some of the other larger cities of the East. Even the plethoric treasury of New Jersey may experience an unneeded increment from the estuation. * * * There will be a partial escape from this tax, because a large amount of business | than any he has yet encountered. can be and will be discreed to the cities of other States where this tribute is not demanded. How ever, there is no occasion for Boston to worry. When the tex gets in running order we shall expect to see seats in this Stock Exchange go up and those of New York decline. That is the law of business under the conditions which will then be established.

We cannot quarrel with local interests m Philadelphia, Boston, Jersey City, Hoboken and elsewhere for welcoming a measure which imposes a tax similar to the old Federal stamp tax on stock sales. except in the important, and to them very advantageous, particular that they are exempt while the burden falls on New York's business alone.

The almost incredible feature of it is that this discrimination against New York, forced by ODELL through the Legislature and up to Governor Higtins, for the benefit of Hoboken and other centres of financial activity, is of New York origin-the legislative product of those charged with the protection of New York's interests.

This circumstance must puzzle the hopeful competitors of New York as much as it delights them.

Rojestvensky and Togo.

From the fact that on April 8 the Russian fleet under Admiral Rojestvensky Numberless sites for eating booths was sighted off Singapore, at the entrance to the China Sea, coupled with the fact that its arrival at that point was known to a Japanese scouting squadron, it has been hastily inferred that a great naval battle is imminent. The truth, of course, is that the date and place of the collision depend upon several circumstances. chief among which is the distance of Admiral Togo's battleships and their rate of speed, as compared with that of their opponents.

It is evident that ROJESTVENSEY destred not to risk an engagement in either the Strait of Malacca or in the Strait of Sunda, for in either event he would have been at a great distance from Saigon, in which French harbor, if defeated, he would naturally seek a refuge. His plan to that end has been carried out successfully. He has outwitted Admiral Togo, who, with a fleet reported to comprise twenty-two ships, was sighted off Singapore on March 14, and who, therefore, was in a position to block his enemy's passage, either through the Strait of Malacca or through the Strait of Sunda. The question for him to determine through his intelligence department was, Which of the two straits would be traversed by the Russian Admiral? He seems to have been deceived in this matter, and to have moved his battleships to the Strait of Sunda, hundreds of miles south of Singapore, leaving, however, by way of precaution, a squadron of cruisers to watch the Strait of Malacca. In order to prevent his route from becoming known to the Japanese. the Russian commander recognized the necessity of misleading the St. Petersburg Admiralty, which, consequently, he requested to direct his colliers that were to follow him to rendezvous in Sunda Strait. The orders were carried out, and accordingly a number of Russian colliers have fallen into the hands of the Japanese war vessels which, according to despatches from Batavia, have been for some time cruising in the Strait of Sunda.

Assuming then that Togo's battleships were on April 8 in or near the Strait of Sunda, we can see that the Russian fleet would have the start of him by several hunded miles, even if their whereabouts could be instantly made known to him by telegraph, or by wireless telegraphy. Should he have to wait until the news were brought to him by one of his scouting cruisers, his opponent might gain about two days more. In that event it would become a question of tremendous moment to the Tokio Government whether ROJESTVENSKY might not be able, with the bulk of his fleet, to reach Vladivostok.

What is the relative speed of the com-

speed Togo's battleships are now capable of attaining is unknown, but having been in continuous hard service for fourteen months they are unlikely to compass anything like their normal rate. It is impossible, therefore, to he should be. What funds from scarlet forecast the date and place of the expected battle, because two factors of the problem, to wit, the precise amount of start gained by Rojestvensky and the difference between his rate of speed and that of his pursuer, are unknown-

Let us take for granted that the Russian Admiral will be overtaken, either In the China Sea or, at all events, in more northern waters, before he reaches Vladivostok. What chance has he of coping successfully with his opponent? According to telegrams from Singapore. the Philadelphia newspapers appliading he has with him six battleships, either skinned the poor and finally robbed the stock transfer tax as an exclusively | seven or nine cruisers (of which two are | their own relatives to found a professor-New York institution. The Press of that | armored), and either seven or eight | city remarks, with poorly disguised en- torpedo boats, besides transports and W. I. rum and Medford that kept New colliers. How the Japanese fleet of England, "our wise and pious ancestors, twenty-two ships sighted on March 14 drunk till 1830; from violations of the was made up we do not know. In no Embargo acts and smuggling operations event could Togo have more than five on the Canada frontier; from sudden battleships, eight armored cruisers and doubtful fortunes in the civil war; from sixteen protected cruisers, and he must railroad wreckings, stock manipulahave left behind him a considerable de- tions and all the finesse of modern high tachment for the purpose of blockading finance-what treasures of suspicious Vladivostok and protecting communi- provenance must be contained in the cations between the Island Empire and the Asiatic mainland. Being ignorant the rest of the old classical schools and of the composition of this detachment, we cannot compare the forces respectively commanded by ROJESTVENSKY and Togo in respect of armament. It will probably be found, however, that in this particular the fleets are pretty in gunnery the Japanese may be extice went on incessantly while the Russian fleet was in Madagascar waters.

strategist he has proved by stealing a at the doings of monopoly. He sees march upon his enemy. That he is whole States turned into insane asylums equally efficient as a naval tactician is or colleges of energumens, and frothimprobable; but it is certain that when | ing at monopoly. He sees the members Admiral Togo comes up with him Togo of the national House of Representawill meet a more formidable antagonist

"Improving" the Parks.

An enterprising merchant has made application to the Park Commissioners for a franchise under which he may set up penny-in-the-slot machines in all the public breathing spaces for the sale of soda water in the summer months. If he had his way, every walk and drive would lead to an automatic thirst quencher, and the many nooks and corners in the parks that now produce not one cent of revenue to the city or its citizens would be utilized to commercial advantage. The experiment might be profitable to the owner of the machines. He probably counts himself a public spirited citizen, too, and his scheme he would call one for the "improvement" of the park system. This is only a fair sample of the kind

of attacks that are continually made on the park system, not only of New York, but of every municipality. To many far sighted business promoters the spectacle of a great tract of land lying unused in the heart of the city and producing no money returns for any one is an abomination and an example of sheer waste. Central Park is full of spots on which are unoccupied within its bounds. The throngs of persons who visit it daily are composed of men, women and children who might be buying jimeracks of almost any description if they only had the opportunity. The fortunes of scores of sidewalk pedlers and other more pretentious merchants might be made under the park trees and arbors if a heartless city government did not prohibit it. The parks offer unlimited inducements to the sign painters, and the fact that they are unavailable causes woe in the breast of all the advertising agents. If it is profitable to cover the

would be to utilize New York's parks as settings for bill boards! If the Park Department keeps a record of the applications it receives for business permits a wonderful story could be made of them. No field of enterprise, it is safe to say, would be unrepresented in the list. At times there has been a danger that some of them might be granted, and a few have been. But in the main the authorities have kept the parks clear of things that do not belong in them. The public is jealous of its playgrounds, and does not want them to be

Jersey meadows with business announce-

ments, how much more remunerative it

turned into retail trading establishments. or catchpenny amusement centres. There is no reason to fear, perhaps, that a permit will be granted to the applicant for soda water privileges; at least there should be none. But it can do no harm to remind President PALLAS and his fellow commissioners that no such machines are needed in the parks and that a permit for them should not be issued.

A Conscientious Son of Rest.

A problem of rich economic and sociological interest peeps from this concise letter:

" To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Can any of your readers or yourself suggest what I can do with a strong boy, 19 years of age, who refuses to work or to attend school? PERPLEXED.

A boy too strong to work is too strong to whale. Besides, in this gentler age only methods of meral sussion can be sanctioned; and the big stick cannot be used to establish a domestic modus vivendi. This is a lad of mettle, of "temperament." He may be a precocious philosopher. He may be dissatisfied with existing industrial and that when shippers make a concerted commercial conditions. He may be movement for the lowering of a rate raising a misunderstood protest against it is almost always lowered, no matter monopoly. Listening to many authori- how reasonable it is shown to be. "The tative or insistent voices, he may believe shippers always get something and the that it is the duty of a high minded boy roads always lose a little in every conto keep himself free from the corruption batants? According to a telegram from of tainted money. Schools and colleges

house of public morality?

Why, there is a vague and doubtless baseless tradition, loved by some ungodly Yalensians, that old ELIHU YALE was one of the boys and no better than faced old merchants whose ships brought "niggers" from the Guinea Coast or even did a little business "on the account and under the Jolly Roger in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries: from Salem or New Bedford or Boston traders and adventurers who bilked the pepper sellers of Sumatra or the customs laws of China and Siam; from privateersmen with no deep respect for international law when they had the weather gauge: from manufacturers who ground their help or turned out shoddy goods; from pious Gripes who shaved notes, ship or a scholarship; from sellers of strong boxes of Harvard and Yale and colleges; and some of the new ones are the known fruit of monopoly.

Naturally, a sensitive boy, even if he is strong, ien't strong enough to submit to tainted instruction. He hears divers excellent clergymen, themselves receivnearly matched. In manœuvring and ling tainted money, yelling like a watchman on Mount Ephraim and objecting pected to show themselves greatly su- to somebody else's tainted money. perior, although it is said that gun prac- Would it be respectful for him to query the wisdom of these his elders?

He sees politicians by the thousand That ROJESTVENSKY is an able naval writhing in epileptic fits of indignation tives tumbling over one another in their furious zeal to show their appreciation of the necessity of putting a hook in the jaws of corporations. He finds the corporation the approved form of large business enterprise; and he believes, if he has the modesty of youth, that corporations are deceitful and desperately wicked. Manufacturing, banking, practically all trades and professions are infected. The trail of the trust is over them all. Labor is a trust, too, and may involve certain obligations of assault and battery or even more spirited proceedings, in case of need. What can a poor conscientious chap do? Must he not set his face against work, just as Toistor does against war?

"Perplexed" little understands the perplexities that are seething in the brain of this young Hamlet.

The London Board of Trade reports an increase of \$7,669,565 in England's exports of cotton goods during the month of March. During the calendar year 1904 American exports of similar goods increased by \$6,500,000 over the sales of 1903. The United States supplied most of the raw cotton from which the English goods were made.

The same authority reports an increase of \$3,302.655 in export of woollen fabrics for the same month. Our total export of such goods for the year 1904 was less than \$2,000,000.

Some of our cotton people might go to England and find out how they do it.

The Texas Railroad Commission. Mr. W. D. TAYLOB, professor of railway engineering in the University of Wisconsin, has made for the Bureau of the Census a report on "The Valuation of Texas Railways." The facts which he gives and his conclusions should have a certain interest for the large class of

ready railway regulators. The railroad commission of Texas has more power than any similar body. practically an absolute control of railroads and rates. It also controls the issue of railroad securities.

The railway commissioners are elected by the people. They are politicians, not experts, business men or shippers

Prof. TAYLOR says that the Texas laws everything pertaining to interstate traffic and even in the matter of the lay out of yards and connections with other companies"; and the commission meddles in many things usually in the discretion of the managers. To illustrate the commission's power and its way of doing business:

" The law gives the commission the right to deide when a new road may cross another at grade. Another statute gives the commission the right to require two roads crossing each other to connect

at that point so as to interchange traffic. Reference to the following statement may be found in the forthcoming report of the commission. A few years ago the International and Great Northern built a new line from Fort Worth southeast along the Brazos River. They arranged to ross the Missouri, Kansas and Texas at grade. The commission objected and required the road, at considerable additional expense, to cross overhead. Soon after the road was opened for business certain citizens demanded that the roads connect. This the roads objected to for three good reasons. The connection would be expensive. The two roads already had connections within fifty miles, both north and south of the point named, and the amount of traffic that would be accommodated would be inconsiderable. But the commisslop ordered the connection made. And the mat-

ter is now in the courts." The railroad men insist that while the commission has lowered rates it has never allowed a lowered rate to be raised. except where the lowering was for a temporary purpose. They assert also

test before the commission." Texas needs new railroads, especially Singapore, the hulls of the Russian ves- have been founded and endowed by a in its western part. New lines developwere exceedingly foul, and the fleet, miscellaneous lot of persons. Ought ing a new country must expect a consid-

although it refused to stop even a mo- a self-respecting youth to consent to an orable period of low earnings. When ment to communicate with the Russian education any part of which is paid for the traffic begins to pay they want to more than eight knots an hour. What certified check passed by the clearing expenditures not earned in the years of small traffic. That is not permitted in Texas, and so the needed lines are not expensive to operate" than those of any

other part of the country. Prof. TAYLOB's remarks about the work of this board of politicians have a

wide application: to commit its control to persons ignerant of its uses and internal organizations, to persons who by training must be supposed incompetent to represent it, and who do not, and cannot, possess any interest or responsibility in the results of raifway

commission there is danger that the constant reductions, now here, now there, in response to the Instatest demands of every petitioner who imagines. nimed! aggreeved, will anally destroy the warning power of ratiway properties and deprive ratiway rights of liberty and property."

Is it not rather old fashioned to speak of railroad owners as having "rights"?

Baron SUYEMATSU, the Japanese statesman, now in London, points out that Japan can educate a soldier in two months, and that, if need be, it would be an easy task to raise 500,000 or even 1,000,000 more men to fight for the Emperor and Nippon. As for the question of money, Baron SUYEMATSU says that there is no other country in the world where a war so little disorganizes the economic status, for the reason that nowhere else is there so much female labor. He further remarks: "Japan has to-day money enough to go on with the war till March, 1906, and then the Japanese people will make whatever further sacrifices are necessary to fight on until a lasting peace can be secured."

Some Virginia antiquarians, professing resentment over the fact that for more than two centuries the body of POCAHONTAS. the preserver of JOHN SMITH, bas lain in an English grave, propose to disinter her remains, bring them to this country and bury them in the soil of Jamestown Island during the exposition to be held two years hence o commemorate the settlement of Virginia. The success of this project will be certain to revive the old controversy about John Smith, for nearly a century in abeyance, and to stimulate a renewal of the Indian uestion in Virginia, a frequent theme of lisagreement.

Wherein it will promote consideration of Virginia's vast and varied industrial sources, which are rehabilitating the Old Dominion in prosperity, is not apparent. POCHENTAS was a heroine and a very ineresting young woman. Obsequies held Virginia 240 years after her death seem to be no necessary part of the maritime and industrial display which is to celebrate the first settlement of that State.

are significant of inte	ellectual	alertne	es and
	1901.	1902.	1903.
Great Britain	87,508	163,981	\$15,518
Germany	95.394	94,217	93,990
United States		72,704	55,856
France	12,523	15.525	15/191
China		15,705	11.436
Delections	2.642	1.050	2.045

Germany, England and the United States supply most of the scientific works, while France sends mostly povels and law books. It is somewhat of a surprise to find China figuring as an exporter of nearly 14,000 books a year to Japan alone. The increase of 1,016 in Russian books in 1903 is suggestive and interesting.

ROMANCE IN THE ZOO. Plain Tale of the Love of Bridge and Miss Reynard.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Permit me o reassure "Englishman," whose letter in this norning's Sun indicates that he thinks a certain fox in the New York Zoological Gardens is being ill-treated. As I understand the situation, and as I believe THE SUN explained, Bridge, the dog referred to, recently became a widower. Soon after his bereavement it was noticed that he was consoling himself by paying marked attention to the Miss Reynard in the adjoining enclosure.

Thereupon the Zoological Society's naturalists, seeing an opportunity for an interesting experiment, transferred the lady to the domictle of Bridge, where I have since observed her living in apparer domestic felicity and showing no signs of the sieged schishness of her mate in regard to for Englishman" may rest assured that in no Zo "Englishman" may rest assured that in no Zoo in the world are the animals better, or as well, cared for as in the New York Zoological Gardens, and I refuse to save and except "dear old London."
Undoubtedly your correspondent is laboring under a misappreheasion: still, notwithstanding the fact that my maternal grandfather was an

Englishman, it always gives me an attack of acute digestion to hear anything American criticised y "his Majosty's" subjects.
The zoological and botanical gardens of The

Brons, by the war, are appreciated by compara-tively few New Yorkers, and ought to be visited by many more people than are now in the habit of going there for an outling. Transportation fa-cilities have been perfected so that the park is now easily reached, and there are many new and inter-ceting specimens of animals and plant life to be make the railway commission "almost supreme in its control of the railways in as often as possible, a place so interesting and in structive as well as so deserving of public so

British and Afghaus.

To THE ROITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Mystery still envelops the British mission to Afghanistan. On March 16, le reply to a question in the Brit House of Commons as to the progress of the ne tiations at Kabul, Mr. Brodrick, the Secretary State for India, said that the mission was s state for india, said that the mission was still at the Afghan capital, but declined to give any information regarding it. Some days later the Earl of Bath, under secretary to Mr. Brodrick, accerted that the result of the negotiations was the confirmation by the Amir Habibullah of the treaty engagements entered into by his father, the late Amir Abilitations. Hereal this notifies the the late Amir Abduttahman. Beyond that nothing was known to quiet the apprehensions in India and England that a third Afghan war was in sight. It was said that on his return from Calcutta, where he had been received with much distinction by Lord Curgon, the Sirdar Inayatullah, the sixteen-year-old son of the Amir, had suggested to his father the establishment of a military school at Kebul under European officers for the training of officers for the Afghan army, and that the Amir had thought favorably of it. As in India the term "European" is applied to British as well as continental Europeans this was understood to mean British officers, but taking into consideration the intense jealousy of all foreigners among the Afghans, it was not thought that even this concession to British pressure was likely. It was believed, on the contrary, that any attempt to force matters at Kabul would result

According to accounts from Teshkent the Russian Government appears to have become so apprehen sive of disturbance on its Central Asian borders, through British activity in Persia, Afghanistan and Tibet, that all the artillery and war material that was sent away to Manchuria after the outbreak of the war was burriedly replaced a short time ago; and a large class of officers for the study of Urdu was formed at Tashkent under a native teacher from Kashmir. NEW YORK, April 9.

> Two Farewells. They quarrelled Sunday evening.
> All tender ties to sever,
> In hot and hurried accents
> They said, "Good-by, forever!" (Time required, two minutes.)

They met on Monday evening, Patched up their tragic sorrow And said in whispered phrases, "Good-by, until to-morrow." (Time required, four hours.)

ONE MILLION A YEAR.

WASHINGTON, April 9.-If the United ment to communicate with the Russian education any part of which is not the cash of a keep rates that will repay interest en States is to be the land of refuge for the politically and economically oppressed millions of southeastern Europe, it is time that New York and other coast cities ceased built. Texas roads "are said to be more to be catch basins in which the majority settle and become a menace to our insti-

The problem of immigration is not the number of arrivals. We have some four millions, and all may be made contributors to our national wealth. Danger to us and "It is extremely dangerous to railway property to them lies in their concentration in our cities, and the remedy for the evil is their distribution through the country. Much is said about this remedy, but nothing is done. There are many areas where these people are needed, and many of those who come would doubtless be glad enough to Tader the Texas laws and under the Texas go to them. On one hand stands demand, a bill appropriating \$30,000, to be used under and on the other stands supply. The bridge which should join them is lacking.

Objection is made to an enforced diffus'on or distribution. It is declared to be un-American. It is held that the owner of owners of the constitutional guarantee of their a foot sat down on American soil becomes at once a free man, at liberty to go where he will, to stay in New York and dig trenches or trundle a pushcart, or to sell his services to some robber padrone who will send him with scores or hundreds of his kind to work on a railway out in the country. This may be a sound political proposition, but it has its proper limitations. The fundamental principle even in a republic is not the freedom of the individual, but the preservation of the State. That purpose must dominate if the State would live. Individual freedom is hedged about by laws, and may in time of need be entirely withdrawn by compulsory service in defero; of the

Those who come to our shores encounter hars erected in the interest of those who are here. The Chinese may not come at all except in a limited number of specific The victims of disease or poverty which threatens the public weal may not come, and if they come they are sent back. In such limited ways the public interest is safeguarded. To other dangers which attend this vast influx, which will probably number 1,000,000 for the current fiscal year, the American people seem indifferent.

Political conditions in Europe and the activities of transportation companies are driving to this country hundreds of thousands of people whose conversion into desirable citizens is a slow and difficult process so long as they are permitted to orm communities of their own in cities and manufacturing centres. So long as there continues a condition of reasonable national prosperity the majority of these find means of self-support. Were there assurance that national prosperity is a fixed and permanent condition the danger would be minimized. But that may not be relied upon, and a period of industrial and comnercial contraction would inevitably result in appalling distress and misery, if not in worse. A system of restriction in the number of

arrivals is proposed. This presents endless difficulties. Proposals for their distribution are discussed, but the propo-The figures of Japan's imports of foreign sals are vague. One way is open, a lawful books during the past three fiscal years and seemingly justifiable way, by which effect might be given to both of these measures. That is by means of a system not unlike that now employed in the reclamation service. A head tax of \$2 is now imposed on each arrival, and the sum thus obtained pays the expenses of the Immigration Bureau. The increase of that tax 334 173 1.159 to \$10 or to \$25 per head would tend to exclude many of the least desirable and so restrict the number of arrivals, while improving the general character of our immigration. This country has no need of the mere political refugee, nor of those who are swept together by agents of transportation lines for the sake of making business for their employers. A head tax of an appreciable sum would bar large numbers of

those who are not wanted. made a diffusion fund for the distribution this | of those who are willing, but who are financially unable, to get out into the country room for them. Out of this fund areas of farm land could be purchased in the South. West and Southwest for division into have arrived within a term of, say, three years prior to the operation of such an act, on easy terms of payment, and the paymants returned to the diffusion fund for

use in further extension of the system. Those who really wish to become Ameri can citizens, to enjoy the benefits and privileges of our social and industrial system should be willing to pay for it and should be made to pay for it. The system has been created by the industry of others, and there is no reason why those who wish to share it should not pay a modest sum for the opportunity of doing so.

Through the application of such a sys there would come restriction and diffusion, both of which are now most desirable if not imperative for our national

Twenty-four Hundred New National Banks in Five Years.

On March 14, 1900, our National Banking act was so amended as to permit the organigation of national banks with a minim capital of \$25,000 instead of \$50,000. T was done to afford banking facilities more easily to the many places in the West and South where banking capital cannot be raised as readily as in the East.
lias the experiment succeeded? A glance

over the five years since the experiment be gan will tell us. Since March 14, 1900, 2,411 banks, with \$139,-895,300 capital have been organized. Have these new organizations met the

geographical requirements? Here is the dis-

tribution by groups of States; Southern States..... 32,286,500 Western States 16,921,000 Island possessions. 625,000

Total, where most wanted ... 1,975 \$101,326,300 New England States ... 4.965,000 Grand total....... 2 (11 \$139.895.300

This tabulation shows at a glance that five-sixths of the new banks have been placed ust where they are most wanted, and twoairds of that five-sixths particularly sothe Southern, Western and Pacific States.

Wost as to new banking capital, with \$10,-305,000 in 132 banks, while Minnesota leads in the number of new banks, 160 with \$5,431,-000 capital.

five years enterprise in new national banks is eminently satisfactory to the people for whose benefit, as a whole, our banking opportunities were enlarged.

Connecticut Holiday. From the Boston Transcrip!. The Governor of Connecticut has just appointed Good Friday as baseball day, though that was not the name he gave it.

BATTLE OF PRINCETON.

A Minument Should Commemerate It and Hugh Mercer.

of battles in the Bevolutionary War in which Washington commanded in person, there are commemorative monuments. us field where a critical battle was fought and won under the personal direction of the Continental Commander-in-Chief, the battlefield of Princeton, bears no such memorial, although repeated efforts have been made to establish one. The erection of such a monu-ment would be a recognition, as well merited as it has been long delayed, of a significant event in American history, and a fair though one of its most devoted defenders in the days of the Revolution, Gen. Hugh Mercer, who died on the battlefield of Princeton.

The Senate of the Fiftieth Congress passed the direction of the Princeton Monument Association, and conditional upon the appropriation of \$15,000 by the New Jersey sum by the monument association, for the erection of a battle monument in Princeton. The bill died in the House of Representatives. The same thing happened in the Fifty-second, the Fifty-seventh, and the Fifty-eighth Congresses—this bill passed the Senate, but never got beyond the committee of the whole House on the State of the Union, in House. Senator Kean and Representative Ira W. Wood of the Fourth New Jersey istrict have fought for the passage of the Speaker Cannon, while expressing himself as favorable to the Princeton project, was unwilling to grant it recognition in the last session, as there were a number of bills of a similar character on the calendar of the House. The New Jersey Legislature has several times passed its appropriation of \$15,000; and the monument association is -

House. The New Jersey Legislature has several times passed its appropriation of \$15,000; and the monument association is—waiting.

This project is of national, not merely local, importance. The battle of Princeton (Jan. 3, 1777), though the forces engaged were small, was a critical struggle. Coming after the reverses at New York and the retreat across New Jersey, when doubt and despair were sapping the spirit of the American people, when the Continental forces seemed hopelessly trapped at Philadelphia, the victories of Trenton and Princeton were a godsend to revive the waning confidence of the patriots. The battle was fought in three engagements. The first and heaviest fighting occurred on a hill a mile outside the town, on the road toward Trenton, Gen. Mercer's and Col. Mawhood's brigades being engaged. Mercer fell while fighting desperately on foot in the thick of the mèlée, and Washington, riding furiously from Princeton, plunged into the fray and rallied the American troops, who were giving way. Then followed a running fight through the ravine back of Princeton, and the battle ended with the patriot forces cannonading Nassau Hall, and driving therefrom the force of Hessians who had made it their barracks. In this cannonade a shot passing through the central chamber of Nassau Hall carried from its frame, which was left intact, a large portrait of George H. The frame to-day holds one of Peale's portraits of Washington.

The hattle of Princeton forced the British out of New Jersey, enabled the Continental Army to pass the winter unharassed in Morristown, and gave new life to the American cause, almost completely exhausted.

Gen, Hugh Mercer's memory cannot be held too high by patriotic Americans. A native Scotchman, he was 'out in the Forty-five' with his Bonny Prince Charlie, and came to America after the failure of the rebellion. He served under Braddock in 1755, and at the outbreak of the Revolution he promptly allied himself with the American "rebels." rendering important services in '75 and '76. He was ma

past the battlefield bears his name, and a monument to his memory was erected in Laurel Hill cametery, Philadelphia, in 1840.

While it is fitting that the Princeton monument, as planned, should be surmounted by a commanding figure of Washington, it is only Just-for statues of Washington we have a-plenty—that first and foremost among the figures surrounding that of the Father of his Country should be one of her faithful foster-son, Hugh Mercer.

PRINCETON, April 8.

Taxing City Real Estate.

THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Str. TO THE EDITOR OF THE CULTURE and un-arge tracts of land in this city held intact and unimproved in many cases for decades; assessed and taxed as acreage, at rates materially lower in proportion than neighboring city lots and improved properties: the owners of these tracts or their heirs reaping what the owners of the city lots and imment of land values resulting from both public and The money thus received, like that obtained for the use of the reclamation sarvice by the sale of public land, might be share of the burden of cost for the public improvements as well as of the cost of the municipal govern-

ity lots and improved properties.

These conditions are anomalous and unjust, and and settle on the land where there is ample | the resulting situation is a perennial source of crit. | rience with the Austrian controlled Ottoman the resulting situation is a general seem but a small learn and complaint. It would seem but a small concession, as to these undivided and unimproved tracts included within the boundaries of a city or tracts included within the boundaries of a city or lies in their having occurred at this time, just after the Emperor William's Morocco speech. West and Southwest for division into incorporated village, if those portions thereof at small holdings. These could be sold to least which abut on a public street or highway to settlers, to new arrivals or to those who the depth of 100 feet be assessed and taxed as city lots where assessments are made for a street or highway about to be opened. Hewise the frontages of such lands on such proposed street or highway. WILLIAMSBEIDGE, April 7. A. U. M.

> A Pretty Good Speller's Stumbling Blocks. To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: As ten ordinary words which are puzzling as to their apelling, I submit the following: separate, corroborate, beeye, piece, emanate, guard, gauge, commodities, mealogical, harass. I am a pretty accurate speller, but all these words

have either bothered me or I have seen them frequently misspelled. If proper names were to be at all considered, I should cut out of my list "piece" and "emanate," and substitute "Mississippi" and "Liewellyn," as words often used and exceedingly puzzling to spell.

In a list given to-day by Mr. Huber I think he

ould not include "dulness" and "fulfil." Prebut the Webster's Collegiate Dictionary of 1900 es these words as "duliness" and "fulfill," so that is merely a question of authority, and no uestion of orthography. NEW YORK, April 8.

Troubles in the Valley.

From the Harrisonburg Spirit of the Valley. Pink eye seems to be the principal thing of any apertance in this part of the country at present. Lacy Rhodes, who has had pneumonia, is out and

around again, we are glad to say.
Oscar H. Arcy, a student of Bridgewater College, home with the pink-eye. Mrs. Kate Long is somewhat indisposed at this

Mrs. G. F. Hartman and son Solomon have both been on the sick list. The latter is still right sick with indigestion and headsche.

The Sentiment of Mike McGee. From the Milmoukee Sentiasi. The gallery was crowded with a lostling Bowery

Some shricked and whistled madly, and others merely sang.
Three acts upon the programme had put them in a And three dismayed performers had been driven from the stage. Then came the charming Lily Vane, in illustrated And several rowdles whispered. 'Wait and see if she belongs.'
Depending on their leader—for a critic true was he—They kept their optics fastened on the burly Mike McGee.

in the Southern, Western and Pacific States.
Oklahoma and Indian Territory, the comping forty-sixth State in our Union, organized 203 of the new banks, with \$6,285,000 capital.
In the Southern list Texas shows up nobly: 270 new banks with \$11,950,000 capital.
Pennsylvania leads the Eastern list with 250 banks of \$20,022,000 aggregate capital.
Ohio heads the procession for the Middle West as to new hanking capital with the foot—And well they knew the panic that his slightest nob produced.
Therefore the queenly Lifty looked to him for her applicance. And sang three "gray-haired mother" songs with-out a single pause.

Considered as a whole, this showing of the years enterprise in new national banks a eminently satisfactory to the people for shose benefit, as a whole, our banking oportunities were enlarged.

The hoodiums sat enchanted as they watched the church notices as usual, but their ruler's face saw each grime-choked teardrop leave its telliale, winding trace.

And when the songs were over, though the parquet of the guise of religious announcements.

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And when the songs were over, though the parquet of the church notices as usual, but the stimp specches. The Globe published the church notices as usual, but their ruler's face.

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The hoodiums sat enchanted as they watched the church notices as usual, but the stimp specches. The Globe published the church notices as usual, but their ruler's face.

And when the songs were over, though the parquet of the church notices are satisfaced. The cut out the stimp specches. The Globe published the church notices as usual, but their ruler's face.

And when the songs were over, though the parquet to cut out out of published the church notices and will centiaue to cut out opulities and the cut out of publical law whanging when submitted under the guise of religious announcements.

The hoodiums sat enchanted as they watched the church notices are summable to cut out out opulities and out out of the cut out of the cut out out of t ened homeward like a summer And Michael And beat his gray-haired mother till she gave ner
"To mercow i wan tilk bits more—don't t'ree me
down" said ne: to tod such sentiment in men like Mike "Tis sw

AN "EDUCATED" BABU'S PLEA. Sought Work to Provide for a Large Family

With "Magnified Apetites."

From Ramsing (Poorman) to Mr. P. W. De-partment. Most Preserved Sir Jam humble man and great family large suns and daughters with magnified apetites, much often have I written to great notorious gentlemen who have terribly failed in goodness therefore your honor kindly will not be completely angered by me for because though not yet altogether dead for want of money, I am much learned man and magnamimously anxious for display of my talent it is great sheer pity for all my big educutation is going horribly lost aside. And Your honor I am the one man in which the English Pot calls forn, blooming unseen, and your honor is the P. W. Departme is great circulated Department building big is great circulated Department building big walls and bridges walls and bridges which fall down ino matter for that) made the money much influence is with your honor in this wide space of area one of P. W. Department your kind will pass over this fussy of my great reteshor.

kind will pass over this fussy of my great peteshan.

I am telling of my great troubles and experiments much learning all things I got much studies in big deschanarries (which is five 6 days I did loet) and great takent in all things but this manifold family is much great expence and too much hunger all the day time long, this family which I have generated God knows how, every year she does my wife make incramental succession to the ratification of this generation.

My age was of 19 years when I did commence to have children and now my age is 34 years and only one child dead, and by the Lord there will be no end to this mischief Your honor is greatly kind and I plainly see all things and your honor will be much pleased with all the works of my hand, I am learning in all things and much instructed in long notorious words flong and terrific) of the great English language but it is much pity in my heart some rough hog has reguled the books of my dec-

flong and terrific) of the great English language but it is much pity in my heart some rough hog has pezzled the books of my decshannaries no matter for that so great is the power of my surprising memory.

I am much knowing in natural mathematics and Philosofee and laws and manupulations such as "the apple must come to the groud" Isaac Newton and such like, Your honor I am a man of long notorious infernal language and my great father had instructed me in much policy and in the College I did learned in all things and by much experiments and thoughtfulness and am now man of much deepness and consideration, my father was much old when he died expire at last and left much goods for the division of me and my sister.

much old when he died expire at last and left much goods for the division of me and my sister.

Your honor I was left pexited of 5,000 rs and much wicked sister (who is major to me Your honor in 10 years) is developing in great many pleshures no matter for that I was man of thoughtfulness and decided on the matter of travels and experiments and much as my eye (for I have only one eye, your honor) gazed on and I am now man of great benefit going hither and thither with my great family and living on strong things, your honor by the power of my big education I have much seen gentleness and talked and talked and learned all things varied and constructed on terrific knowledge and altogether because power of learning I have always found work of my hands yet still the money is plentiful divided by reasons of the Sindh Station which is much dear place in rice and all matter and such difficult for work your honor yet much beautiful in all things of sight and surely here the trees go hither and thither in the blast of our days and rivers bubbling and all birds (black and yellow) and much color giorifying the atmosfear and mighty flavored in all things and the great Governor General and council shine like big stars of terrific pleshures, but my soul is much is much sorry for want of money and work or I could much please in telling all things, but hunger is at the belly for the future and therefore your honor will kindly give me the help and work of your honor will give the work and I will show and great pleshure will come to your honor if your honor will give the work and I will show my talent in all things and your honor will be

May almighty powers hold your honor se curely and may your honor be safe and tight evermore I much pray your honors children be safe evermore I am your honors humble servant Ramsing (Poorman).

German Cannon for the Sultan

To the Editor of The Sun -Sir: The signature by the Sultan of the irade approving of a German loan, the greater part of which is to be devoted to the purchase of quickfiring field artillery from Germany, settles the controversy that has been going on at Constantinople as to whether these guns should be ordered from Creusot or Krupp. The question has undoubtedly been settled on political grounds to which events in Arabia and North Africa are not entirely foreign; but by way of compensation, and rather in a Micawberlike spirit, the Sultan has signed another irade approving a French loan satisfying the French demands on account of the Syrian railway and the Constantinople quays. The claims on account of the Syrian railway were politically important, as it was always possible that in the event of its being urgently needed for the transport of troops refuse service until a settlement had been made. The Turks have had a similar expe

not the whole of the order for the guns should be placed in France. It is said that the French Embassy is not entirely satisfied with the result, but the Turks will no doubt be quite willing to reopen the discussion, which will defer a settlement while their artillery is being made in Germany. Indeed it has been more than hinted that, in anticipation of the matter being arranged as it has, part of the order has already been completed

The attitude of the Bulgarian and Servian Governments in connection with Macedonian matters is said to have had something to do PERA

NEW YORK, April 8. Abstainer's Liquor Tax Suggestion.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I am not personally interested in the liquor business and I am almost a "teetotal abstainer" from drink of any kind, as I have taken but three drinks of whiskey in all my life of nearly seventy-two years, and only on a doctor's prescription at that; but I have seen much of what I consider wrong in the Raines law. Thy did this law have no clause in it to allow any informer on lawbreakers that sell without a li-cense at least one-quarter of the cash fine? This fine should be at least twice the price of a year's license, or imprisonment when the lawbreaker would not pay the fine; of course, in that event the informer would have to take his pay in curses from the convicted wrongdoer. But how would any man be foolish enough to inform, if in every case he would only get a curse for his pains; for the law now does not offer him a cent for his trouble or

I think such a clause in the Baines law would do I think such a clause in the Baines law would de-more good than the high license new will do toward stopping drunkenness—on the siy, at least; and I also think many more licenses would be called for. I think there would be no more, if as much, drink-

ing done.
Last year I read a paper by a resident of this town in which the brag was made that a certain larger town than ours never had a license application filed by any of its citizens; but I know parties that are as trustworthy as any one can be who star positively that a rich man could not pay for all the positively that a free man count not pay for all 1 in liquor or drinks of every kind you can get there in almost every boarding house. I certainly do not think it advisable to imitate what must surely be lawbreakers of the worst kind.
YULAN, April 6. J. C. METZGER, Sr.

"Paid if It Sticks."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Referring to the communication of "A. A." in THE SUN of to-day. I would advise him to do as I am doing. I try to stick the stamp on the letter to be mailed and falling use some good gum of my own, and then write this legend over the stamp: "Paid if the durned thing sticks." I have been compelled to do this because I have had several letters returned to me to be restamped after I had paid the postage, NEW YORK, April 8.

The Rights of the Blue Pencil.

From the Joplin Globe.

The Rev. J. J. Porter and one other minister sent in announcements for Sunday services to the Globe last Saturday with stump speeches attached. The

From the Low Notes.

At the Anglesey Assizes recently Mr. Justice Lawrence inquired what the letters "P. G." after Lawrence inquired what the letters "P. G." after the name L'anfair meant. Mr. Bryn Roberts. M. P., replied that it was an abbreviation for the Weisn village of Lianfairpwilgwyng; ilgogerychwyradrob-wllandysillogogoch.